



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Miguel Ortiz Gimenez et al.) Group Art Unit:
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/732,651) 2832
FILED: December 6, 2000) Examiner:
FOR: Earth Leakage Detection Device) Lincoln D. Donovan

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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June 19, 2003

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AGATHA SKIERKOWSKI

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature Date

2832/14
#10/ELECTION
J. EVANS
6-28-03
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JUN 25 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action dated April 21, 2003, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-8, *with traverse*.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Election / Restriction requirement for the following reasons:

As alleged by the Examiner, Group I is drawn to a test switch, classified in class 335, subclass 17, and Group II is drawn to a housing structure, classified in class 335, subclass 202. However, as evidenced by the claim language, Applicant respectfully submits that Group I (claims 1-8) and Group II (claims 9-13) are both drawn to an earth leakage detection device having limitations that include both a housing and an earth leakage detection circuit, where the scope of the invention varies by the inclusion of other limitations. Alternatively, if the Examiner is correct in asserting that Group II is indeed drawn to a housing structure, then so too must Group I be drawn to a housing structure, as both Groups I and II include the same housing limitation. In view of the claimed inventions of Groups I and II being drawn to similar subject matter, a search and examination of the application including Groups I and II may be made without serious burden to the Examiner. Accordingly, restriction of Groups I and II for examination purposes is improper.

As further alleged by the Examiner, Group III is drawn to an auxiliary switch structure, classified in class 335, subclass 132, and Group IV is drawn to a trip/reset mechanism, classified in class 335, subclass 166. However, as evidenced by the claim language, Applicant respectfully submits that Group III (claims 14-17) and Group IV (claims 18-19) are both drawn to a trip/reset mechanism for an earth leakage detection device having a scope of invention that varies by the inclusion of different limitations. In view of the claimed inventions of Groups III and IV being drawn to similar subject matter, a search and examination of the application including Groups III and IV may be made without serious burden to the Examiner. Accordingly, restriction of Groups III and IV for examination purposes is improper.

For at least this reason, the Restriction Requirement dated April 21, 2003 is wholeheartedly traversed, and removal of the Requirement, at least with respect to the improper groupings noted above, is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues that remain.

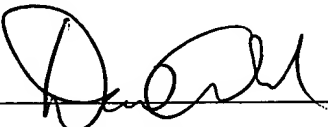
Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to this office action.

This response is accompanied by a request for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicant's Attorneys

By: _____


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